

# Why Adult Faith Formation?

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**Adults today face issues that our ancestors never confronted. Furthermore, they confront those issues without the strong family and parish ties that they once had. Through adult faith formation we can provide people with correct information about these issues and help them cope with the challenges of being a disciple of Jesus in today's world.**

Faith formation used to be called "religious education." In recent years, the Church has recognized that there must be more to learning about God than taking classes, although that is often part of it. Formation in faith is a process of learning and growing that certainly includes gathering facts about our Catholic faith, yet it is also about learning to express our faith in everyday, lived experiences. Adult Faith Formation happens when people grow in knowledge and love of Christ—something we can only do by the teaching that occurs when we care for one another. Thus, faith formation happens in many ways that we don't often consider to be true encounters with God. Sadly, much of the formation that once happened in families and parishes no longer does. Because of changes in society, parishes lost much of this former sense of community.

**The church is concerned about adult faith formation today because it recognizes that unless it intentionally offers opportunities to help adults understand what Catholics believe and shows them how Catholics act, other voices and forces within the culture will influence us to believe and act outside the faith.**

Faith formation is about growing in knowledge and love of Jesus. It is a task that encompasses all of us. In order for the Kingdom of God to be realized here in Humble (as Christ so wills), many people must choose to live out their baptismal promises in their everyday lives—at school, work, home and in our parish programs. Christ seeks many more ministers in our parish to serve him in his people. Let us, as disciples of Jesus, join together in this noble task.

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